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ACTION AF-01

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/038W			

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O 201323Z APR 94

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1939

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ADDIS ABABA 002875

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, RW, ET

SUBJECT: OAU SECRETARY GENERAL DISCUSSES RWANDA WITH
- REPRESENTATIVES OF OBSERVER COUNTRIES

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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. ON APRIL 20, OAU SECRETARY GENERAL SALIM SALIM
CALLED A MEETING OF "OBSERVER COUNTRIES" ON RWANDA.
ATTENDING WERE THE AMBASSADORS OF BURUNDI, TANZANIA,
ZAIRE, UGANDA, GERMANY, AND THE U.S., THE CHARGES FROM
BELGIUM AND FRANCE, AND OAU PERSONNEL.

3. SALIM OUTLINED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAU: PUSHING
BOTH SIDES TO ACCEPT A CEASEFIRE, A HALT TO THE KILLING,

AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. HE CONFIRMED THAT TANZANIAN PRESIDENT MWINYI HAS CALLED A MEETING OF BOTH SIDES AND OBSERVERS FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 23, IN ARUSHA. MWINYI HOPES THIS MEETING WILL LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CEASEFIRE, AND DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. SALIM SAID HE HAD ASKED MWINYI TO INCLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE AREAS FOR NGO'S TO ENABLE THEM TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. SALIM ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS FROM BOTH SIDES CAPABLE OF MAKING DECISIONS ATTEND THIS MEETING.

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4. SALIM ALSO PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI AND PLEADED FOR CONTINUED UN INVOLVEMENT IN RWANDA. "OTHERWISE THE UN IS SAYING AFRICAN LIVES MATTER LESS THAN LIVES OF PEOPLE ON OTHER CONTINENTS." AMBASSADOR SAID THE U.S. WELCOMED THE OAU'S EFFORTS AND SAID THE USG WAS ALSO WORKING TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CEASEFIRE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. HE SAID THE U.S.

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WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE ARUSHA MEETING.

5. BASICALLY, SALIM'S APPEAL FOLLOWED HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON APRIL 19, THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, I HAVE INVITED YOU THIS AFTERNOON TO SHARE WITH YOU MY PERSONAL CONCERN AND THOSE OF OUR CONTINENTAL ORGANIZATION ON THE SERIOUSLY DETERIORATING HUMAN TRAGEDY TAKING PLACE IN RWANDA, A MEMBER STATE OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

AS YOU ARE ALL NO DOUBT AWARE, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND, INDEED, THE ORDINARY PEOPLE OF AFRICA HAVE BEEN CONCERNED AND CONTINUE TO EXPRESS HORROR, DISMAY AND SHOCK AT THE WANTON KILLINGS AND SENSELESS VIOLENCE DAILY UNFOLDING IN RWANDA.

THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AT THE LEVEL OF THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN, THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AS WELL AS OF THE CENTRAL ORGAN, HAS REITERATED AFRICA'S DEEP CONCERN OVER THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY - INDEED, OVER MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN AS THE RWANDA DRAMA HAS TURNED OUT TO BE.

AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU, I WISH TO RECALL THAT

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IN ALL MY STATEMENTS AND PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDA FRONT, I HAVE CALLED FOR
AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE BRUTAL KILLINGS TAKING PLACE IN
THE COUNTRY.

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I HAVE EQUALLY EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE
RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT FORCES
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AND THOSE OF THE RPF AND HAVE THEREFORE CALLED FOR AN
IMMEDIATE HALT TO THE HOSTILITIES TO ENABLE THE TWO
PARTIES TO COMMENCE, WITHOUT DELAY, NEGOTIATIONS AIMED
AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT TO
WHICH BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA AND THE RWANDESE
PATRIOTIC FRONT HAVE REPEATEDLY PLEDGED THEIR COMMITMENT
AND READINESS TO IMPLEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
ARUSHA PEACE PROCESS.

WE HAVE ALL BEEN FOLLOWING WITH GRAVE CONCERN AND
INDIGNATION THE RISING TIDE OF HUMAN SUFFERING IN
RWANDA. THIS PLIGHT OF THE RWANDESE PEOPLE HAS CAUSED
US ALL THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT AND BEYOND MUCH PAIN,
SORROW AND ANGUISH.

AMONG THE AFFECTED PEOPLE IN RWANDA CAN BE COUNTED THE
THOUSANDS WHO HAVE PERISHED IN "HELL ON EARTH" AS THE
SITUATION IN RWANDA WOULD SEEM TO EPITOMISE. IN
ADDITION, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHER ORDINARY
RWANDESE HAVE BEEN DISPLACED WITHIN THE COUNTRY IN THE
MOST INHUMAN CONDITIONS.

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AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU, I HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT
TOUCH WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT
AND OF THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT. MY LATEST CONTACT
WAS WITH THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE RWANDESE
PATRIOTIC FRONT, MR. PATRICK MAZIMHAKA, WITH WHOM I HAD
VERY LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS ON THE 17TH AND 18TH OF APRIL,
RESPECTIVELY, ON THE SITUATION IN RWANDA AND HOW THE
OAU, IN CONCERT WITH THE FACILITATOR, PRESIDENT ALI
HASSAN MWINYI, AS WELL AS THE UN, WITH THE COOPERATION
OF THE TWO PARTIES, CAN BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE MAYHEM
AND HUMAN SUFFERING IN RWANDA AND THE IMMEDIATE

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CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.

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IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR CONVICTION THAT AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND TO THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS SHOULD CREATE CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

IT IS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THESE CONCERNS AND, INDEED, THE ROLE AND CONCERN OF THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES THAT I, UNRESERVEDLY, WELCOME AND SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF TANZANIA, H.E. ALI HASSAN MWINYI, FACILITATOR TO THE ARUSHA PEACE TALKS, TO CONVENE A PEACE CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA, ON SATURDAY, 23 APRIL 1994.

THE MEETING IS EXPECTED TO BRING TOGETHER
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT AND THE
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RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE OBSERVER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA, AS FACILITATOR, IS PROPOSING
THIS CONFERENCE WITH TWO MAIN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.
THESE ARE:

- A) CEASEFIRE;
- B) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT.

I HAVE TODAY, 19 APRIL, BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF TANZANIA, HON. JOHN Malecela, AND THE TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HON. JOSEPH RWEGASIRA, TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE CONFERENCE. I HAVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SUGGESTED THAT THE PROPOSED ARUSHA CONFERENCE SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL MODALITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO REACH ALL THE AFFECTED PEOPLE IN RWANDA. IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY A NUMBER OF HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS, NOTABLY OXFAM, TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS OVER THE INACCESSIBILITY OF AREAS IN THE CONFLICT ZONES, WHERE THOUSANDS OF RWANDESE HAVE BEEN TRAPPED AND CONTINUE TO SURVIVE WITHOUT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND CARE.

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I WISH, AT THIS JUNCTURE, TO EXPRESS THE UNFLINCHING SUPPORT OF THE OAU FOR THE PROPOSED PEACE CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA. I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EARNESTLY APPEAL TO BOTH THE RWANDA GOVERNMENT AND THE RWANDESE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PARTICIPATE, AT HIGH LEVEL, AT THIS

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MEETING NEXT SATURDAY. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TWO PARTIES IS ESSENTIAL AND IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS OF BRINGING TO A DEFINITE END THIS MAYHEM AND HUMAN SUFFERING. THEIR PRESENCE IS ALSO CRUCIAL IN BRINGING ABOUT A CEASEFIRE AND ITS CONSOLIDATION SO THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARUSHA PEACE AGREEMENT CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

AFRICA AND THE WORLD CANNOT AFFORD TO ADOPT A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE; DEFINITELY, THE OAU WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS MEANS TO ASSIST IN BRINGING ABOUT AN END TO THIS HUMAN CATASTROPHE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, I WISH TO CONCLUDE BY STRESSING THE OAU'S SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUED ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN RWANDA. IN THIS REGARD, I CALL ON THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO ENABLE THE UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION FOR RWANDA (UNAMIR) TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE.

I ALSO WISH TO APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY,

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INCLUDING THE VARIOUS NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO
PROVIDE INCREASED AND ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO CATER FOR
THE THOUSANDS OF AFFECTED PERSONS IN RWANDA.

FINALLY, IN VIEW OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE AND
SIGNIFICANCE WHICH THE
OAU ATTACHES TO THE FORTHCOMING
PEACE CONFERENCE IN ARUSHA, I SHALL PERSONALLY LEAD THE
OAU DELEGATION.

I THANK YOU.

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END TEXT.

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